

Monroe County LEICC Meeting Notes

April 25, 2012

Attendees: Tracey Taylor, Nancy Consol, Robin Adair, Judy Warner, Liz Baltus-Hebert, Ann Marie Stephan, Pat Graff, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx, Jill DeVecchio, Desere Lester, Beth McLellan, Paula Thomas, Kendra Marasco, Liz Rieth, Cynthia Toleman, Sharon Shafrir, Beth Gier Leva, Cierra Perut, Niella Kelly, Beth Warner

Scribe: Judy Warner, Monroe County Health Department – Meeting started at 10:10 am

Welcome: to new attendees & introductions

Last month's minutes: Motion to approve last month's minutes; minutes approved

Ann Marie - Updates:

- EICC RAP – e-mail received from the state informing municipalities and providers that NYSDOH BEI is putting RAP on “hold” in order to execute the reforms that were part of the '13 Executive Budget. EICC will continue to meet quarterly. Lisa Chester from Niagara County sits on the EICC and represents the Western region.
- Service Coordinator rates – new rate package submitted – waiting for results. Ann Marie called the state to verify rate (rate is now \$14.00 and will continue until new rate change) – rate package expired, need to go back through process again – no time frame for new rate. As a result FRC (Family Resource Center) will no longer be providing Early Intervention Service Coordination. FRC will try to keep 2 staff until the end of August but they are not sure. 1/3 of their cases load (~100) will be transiting, but recent cases will be coming back to the county for Service Coordination. All other agencies are full at this time. Monroe County will likely be issuing an RFP to secure another OSC agency.
- Provider- U of R Medical Center, on behalf of the Andrew J. Kirch Developmental Services, will no longer provide service as an EI provider. Kirch center will continue to provide services to children and families in the community, but it will not be an EI service.
- Barbara Gorski will be retiring at the end of July. Ann Marie will be looking at the program needs to determine how to best fill the position.
- The EI Admin grant is being reduced by \$29,000 this year. Per the NYS '13 Executive Budget, the EI Admin grant will continue to decrease each subsequent year as the state plans to use this money to pay for the fiscal agent. At this time, there are no anticipated changes to the work plan that accompanies the grant, so it is expected that the state will continue to have the same expectations of municipalities, but they will be receiving less money.
- NYEIS – the DECO group petition for moratorium on NYEIS – we are not going to participate – it will run from May through August. A new version of NYEIS (1.6) will be coming out soon. The state continues to work with CMA to improve the system, but at this time, relevant fiscal reports are still unavailable.

Committee Updates:

Data Committee:

- Exit survey for providers sent out for feedback and replies returned – Survey Monkey to be sent out to gather feedback from providers who have left Early Intervention.

Public Awareness Committee:

- Homework was to go on Facebook and look up EI – no feedback sent to Tracey. Sharon Shafrir will go in and look at the pages and security and will update Tracey. Sharon suggested a Facebook page for parents. Discussion on purpose of Facebook page and the LEICC needs. Who to monitor?

Parent Involvement Committee:

- Updated Initial Visit packet. Trying to get more parent involvement. There are 2 meeting scheduled for May

ACTION: Tracey needs to get e-mails that show updates from the committee. Jill noted this.

- Deseré Lester suggested possibly having an EI picnic for families – Sharon said it was a great idea and maybe they could get a sponsor for it.

Quality Improvement Committee:

- Sharon and Pat to talk with parents and providers

Ann Marie – Budget:

- What passed in recent budget – highlights for this group:
 - “Arms-length relationship” – many providers provide service coordination, evaluations, and/or services – this did not pass. However, per NYSDOH BEI, they intend to pursue this through changes to regulations.
 - Providers will enter into agreements with state for EI services vs. municipalities – providers will submit directly to state for reimbursement – providers will still contract with the county for pre-school services. No other specifics on steps or processes yet.
 - Pre-School – proposal that the district assume some (very limited) costs of providing preschool services did not pass

Letter writing campaign:

Tracey – Very successful in attempts to get letters out – Ann Marie had about 300 she sent and approximately another 200 were sent directly from independents. Tracey, Beth, Kendra and Nancy shared stories and experiences they encountered with the letter writing. Feedback for next time around: (1.) all of the letters were addressed differently. Perhaps provide more specific instruction(s) on which the letters should be addressed to. (2.) Photocopying and sorting the letters was extremely time consuming. Beth said that her son needs to do community service work for school so in the future please contact her for help on projects. Others in the group may have children that could also help out the next time. (3.) Some providers wrote their own letter and went ahead and sent it vs. waiting to receive the letter from LEICC. The group discussed the pros and cons of each approach. Most felt it was important to have a standard letter that comes from LEICC in order to ensure that the info is accurate, supported by the LEICC and so there's a “fixed”, clear and concise message vs. several people going to State and local representatives with different messages. The alternative was also discussed- that is, that the Committee could provide guidelines for a letter and providers use this “skeleton/outline, but “personalize” – it so it stood out more. (4.) Family postcard- photos very effective.

Community Information Forum:

A couple of dates were suggested (Sept 21 or 28) for forum to be held. Sept 28th was voted on and approved as the next date. Anyone interested in working on the committee please contact Jill DelVecchio @ jdelvecchio@steppingstoneslearning.com Ann Marie to secure MCH as location.

Announcements:

UNYFEAT benefit and silent auction being held this Friday night from 5:30 – 11:00pm at the Memorial Art Gallery– go to website for more info

Event for Flower City Downs Syndrome this Saturday

Next meeting: July 25, 2012, 10:30am-12:30pm at Pittsford Library, 24 State St. Pittsford, NY 14534

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm